

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and the following remarks are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,74,489 to Smith (herein after "Smith") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,961,338 to Wu et al. (hereinafter "Wu"). For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 1, neither Smith nor Wu, nor a combination thereof, teaches or suggests every limitation of the claim. In the Office Action (paper no. 12) the Examiner states that Smith does not disclose the first guide member guiding the circuit board in a transverse direction. Thus, the Examiner relies on Wu for teaching this limitation. Specifically, the Examiner states that "Wu et al. disclose a circuit board retention structure (figure 2) having a tapered guide surface for guiding a printed circuit board (100) in a 'transverse' direction." Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Wu does not teach a printed circuit board holding structure comprising "a taper face for guiding the circuit board in the transverse direction," as required by claim 1. Wu discloses three tapered surfaces on the electrical connector (10) that holds the IC card (100). As explained in detail below, none of these three tapered surfaces satisfies the limitations of the above-mentioned "taper face" of claim 1.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2 of Wu, the first two tapered surfaces (not numbered) are located on the piers (32) of the base (12) of the electrical connector (10). As can be seen by sequentially viewing Figs. 5-7, the piers (32) do not interact with the IC card (100) during its insertion. Specifically, the IC card (100) is retained in the cover (44) by a pushing bar (54) (Fig. 1) during insertion of the card into the electrical connector (10). Since the tapered surfaces of the piers (32) do not effect the movement of the IC card (100), they do not satisfy the required "guiding" limitation of claim 1.

The third tapered surface of Wu is the chamfer region (30) (see Fig. 1). However, unlike the taper faces of claim 1, the chamfer region (30) does not guide the card in a particular direction. Rather, the chamfer region (30) is keyed to the notched corner or polarization region (104) of the IC card (100) to prevent the IC card (100) from being inserted backwards and/or upside down. Thus, Wu does not disclose the required "guiding" limitation of claim 1.

Therefore, even if Smith and Wu were combined, every limitation claim 1 is not taught or suggested. Thus, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 3 and 5 are patentable over the prior art of record.

Regarding claim 6, Applicant respectfully points out that this claim was newly added in the previous amendment and contains additional structural limitations not present in the existing claims. Specific geometries are set forth in the claim which are not taught or suggested by Smith or Wu or any possible combination thereof. If the Examiner intends to maintain this rejection, Applicant kindly requests that the Examiner provide a detailed explanation of how Smith and Wu are being applied to the limitations of claim 6.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Smith in view of Wu and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,689,405 to Bethurum. For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

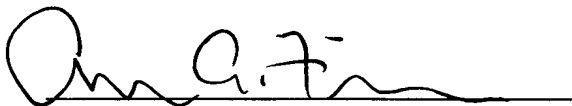
Claim 4 depends from claim 1, and thus for all of the above-mentioned reasons each of Smith and Wu alone or in combination do not teach or suggest every limitation of claim 4. Further, Bethurum does not teach or suggest the above-mentioned deficiencies of Smith and Wu. Therefore, even if Smith, Wu and Bethurum were combined, every limitation of claim 4 is not taught or suggested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 34207.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By: 
Aaron A. Fishman, Reg. No. 44682

526 Superior Avenue, East
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1484
(216) 579-1700

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